

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 00566 191706Z
ACTION EUR-12

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R 191457Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8743
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 566

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, GR
SUBJECT: MASS, GR, SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO GREECE

REF: STATE 8970 (DTG 141813Z JAN 77) (NOTAL)

1. ALLEGATION THAT U.S. AID FOR GREECE IN THE USG BUDGET IS CONTINGENT ON APPROVAL OF U.S.-GREEK DCA WAS CARRIED IN NEW YORK-DATELINED JANUARY 18 ARTICLE, FROM ITS CORRESPONDENT, IN LIBERAL, OPPOSITION TO VIMA. AN "AUTHORITATIVE SOURCE" TERMED "ERRONEOUS" THE SAME DAY THE REPORT WHICH WAS HEADLINED "NO AID TO GREECE BEFORE THE AGREEMENT."

2. IN THE PROCESS OF DENYING THE TO VIMA NEW YORK REPORT THAT THE US WAS "BLACKMAILING" GREECE, THE AUTHORITATIVE SOURCE CONFIRMED THE FOLLOWING, ACCORDING TO THE SEMI-OFFICIAL ATHENS NEWS AGENCY BULLETIN JANUARY 19:

(A) THE "PROCEDURE HAS BEEN COMPLETED" FOR 1977 AID AMOUNTING TO \$33 MILLION GRANT, \$1 MILLION TRAINING AND \$127 MILLION CREDIT;

(B) THE 1978 BUDGET INCLUDES ASSISTANCE OF \$175 MILLION BROKEN DOWN INTO \$33 MILLION GRANT, \$2 MILLION TRAINING AND \$140 MILLION FOR SALES ON CREDIT;

(C) NO REGULAR U.S. AID WILL BE GRANTED TO GREECE IN THE 1978 BUDGET "UNLESS THE GREEK-U.S. DEFENSE
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AGREEMENT IS APPROVED BY CONGRESS."

3. COMMENT: AMBASSADOR MOLYVIATES, THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S POLITICAL OFFICE, CALLED US THE MORNING OF JANUARY 18 IN CONNECTION WITH THE TO VIMA STORY. HE WANTED TO CHECK THE ACCURACY OF THE FY 78 AID FIGURES, WHICH THE GOG HAD APPARENTLY RECEIVED FROM

THE GREEK EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, AND CITED THE FIGURES GIVEN
IN PARA 2 (B) ABOVE. MOLYVIATES ALSO MENTIONED HIS
UNDERSTANDING THAT FY 78 SECURITY ASSISTANCE FOR GREECE WAS
CONTINGENT UPON CONCLUSION OF THE DCA. HE SAID THE GOG WOULD
ISSUE A DENIAL CONCERNING THE TO VIMA ALLEGATION BUT DID NOT
INDICATE TO US THAT THE GOG INTENDED TO RELEASE THE AID
FIGURES.

MILLS

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Message Attributes

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